

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): An integrated biochip system for sample preparation or analysis, comprising one or more chips,

wherein at least one of said one or more chips is a multiple force chip,
wherein said multiple force chip comprises at least one acoustic element;
further wherein said integrated biochip system can perform two or more sequential tasks, wherein at least one of said two or more sequential tasks is a processing task.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, wherein said multiple force chip comprises at least one electromagnetic element.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, wherein said multiple force chip comprises at least one electrode.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 22, wherein said multiple force chip comprises a traveling wave dielectrophoresis electrode array layer.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, wherein said multiple force chip comprises a particle switch layer.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, further comprising at least one chamber.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, wherein one or more sample components can be moved from at least one area of at least one chip of said system to at least one other area of said at least one chip of said system by traveling wave dielectrophoresis.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The integrated biochip system of claim ~~26~~ 19, wherein one or more sample components can be moved from at least one area of at least one chip of said system to at least one other area of said at least one chip of said system by traveling wave magnetophoresis.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, wherein a sample applied to said integrated biochip system can remain continuously within said system from the beginning of the first of said two or more sequential tasks until the end of the last of said two or more sequential tasks performed by said system.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 28, wherein said integrated biochip system is automated.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The integrated biochip system of claim 19, wherein said one or more chips ~~is two or more chips~~ comprises more than one chip.

Claim 31 (currently amended): ~~The integrated biochip system of claim 30,~~ An integrated biochip system for sample preparation or analysis, comprising two or more chips,
wherein at least one of said two or more chips is a multiple force chip,
further wherein said integrated biochip system can perform two or more
sequential tasks, wherein at least one of said two or more sequential tasks
is a processing task;
further wherein ~~said~~ at least two of said two or more chips can be, for at least a part of the time during the operation of said integrated biochip system, in fluid communication with one another.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 31,
wherein one or more sample components can be moved from at least one
of said two or more chips to at least one other of said two or more chips by
a mechanism other than fluid flow.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 32, wherein
sample components can be moved from at least one of said two or more chips to
at least one other of said two or more chips by traveling wave dielectrophoresis
or traveling wave magnetophoresis.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 30,
wherein at least one of said two or more chips is a passive chip.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The integrated biochip system of claim 30,
wherein at least two of said two or more chips are active chips.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The integrated biochip system of claim ~~37~~ 35,
wherein at least one of said active chips is a particle switch chip.